The major steps taken by Central Government in this regard are as under.

States are provided advisories for contingency crop planning, programmatic intervention such as allowing use of truthfully leveled (TL) seeds and provisioning additional power to energize irrigation pumps to the States. States have been given flexibility to utilize the funds under various Central schemes to meet the additional requirement of seed distribution. Subsidy norms of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and pulses have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture for Rabi/summer 2009-10 season. Age limit norms of certified seed of rice wheat and pulses varieties have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses has been planned for enhancing rice production. Additional allocations of rust resistant and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikit have been made. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertiliser, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.

Miserable condition of farmers in U.P.

1702. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of farmers of Uttar Pradesh who constitute 2/3rd population of State, is very miserable;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain their real condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government will conduct any survey in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to policies of Government, 90 per cent farmers of U.P. are not able to even feed their families properly; and

(e) the details of farmers who committed suicide in northern States during last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of bio-fuels on food prices and production

1703. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a World Bank study has revealed that bio-fuels are responsible for hike in food prices that has pushed hundred million people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of bio-fuels in India; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase food production to bring the food price at reasonable level?